

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 ACDA-05 /077 W

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R 211445Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USNATO BRUSSELS 2176

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL TALKS

REF: ATHENS 3722

1. SUMMARY: CONTINUED NEGATIVE REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S LE MONDE INTERVIEW (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL) WAS COUNTERED TO SOME EXTENT BY PRESS REPORTS HERE MAY 21 OF REMARKS BY BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS AFTER THEIR ROME MEETING. BITSIOS UPON HIS RETURN TO GREECE REFERRED TO THE "GOOD SPIRIT" PREVAILING DURING TALKS WHILE CAGLAYANGIL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "HE IS CONVINCED THE TWO MINISTERS MADE A GOOD START." END SUMMARY.

2. FM BITSIOS UPON HIS RETURN TO ATHENS LATE EVENING MAY 20, WHERE HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR GURUN AND MFA OFFICIALS, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT ROME MEETING WAS A FIRST CONTACT, "AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON BURNING SUBJECTS." BITSIOS SAID THAT THESE ISSUES REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY WHICH WOULD BE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TASK OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS AND OF FURTHER MEETINGS

IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE POINTS OF APPROACH BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE TWO SIDES. "IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY THIS," HE ADDED.

3. QUERIED AS TO WHETHER THE ROME MEETING WAS A FAILURE, BITSIOS REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE SINCE IT WAS A FIRST CONTACT AND APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF ORGANIZING THE WORK WHICH HAS TO BE DONE ON COMPLEX ISSUES. THESE ARE NOT EXCLUSIVELY POLITICAL, HE ADDED, BUT MANY ARE ESSENTIALLY LEGAL MATTERS. AS A RESULT THE MOST PRACTICAL APPROACH WAS TO ORGANIZE FURTHER MEETINGS AND GIVE EACH SIDE TIME TO STUDY THE ISSUES FIRST. IN CONCLUSION THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID "A GOOD SPIRIT PREVAILED IN ROME, WHICH PERMITTED US TO WORK FOR THREE DAYS AND TO ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT."

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED POSITIVE REMARKS OF CAGLAYANGIL FOLLOWING ROME TALKS. TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT TALKS WERE "SINCERE, REALISTIC AND CORDIAL" AND HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH PURPOSE OF DEFINING ISSUES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF A PROJECTED "SUMMIT" MEETING. HOWEVER, GREATER PROMINENCE WAS GIVEN BY PRESS TO DEMIREL INTERVIEW STORY (REFTEL) WHICH CONTINUES TO RECEIVE VERY NEGATIVE TREATMENT.
KUBISCH

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